

5A Enhancing the student journey: Supporting student retention and success

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The University of Glasgow participated in the What Works? Student retention & success change programme; a Paul Hamlyn Foundation initiative working with the Higher Education Academy, Action on Access and 13 UK universities over three years, building on the findings of What Works? phase 1 (Thomas, 2012).

The programme now complete, the project team will give a brief overview of the national programme and activities at the institutional level and in three Schools; where initiatives to promote student engagement and belonging were designed under the three programme themes of Active Learning, Induction and Co-curricular Activity.

The School of Life Sciences expanded induction and used Moodle to enhance induction and self-assessment; Engineering developed active learning opportunities in a new course in the redesigned first year curriculum, with an introduction to careers in Engineering and graduate skills; and Interdisciplinary Studies implemented a peer mentoring scheme across Dumfries campus. The institution-level focus was on improving data as indicators for student retention and success.

Student participation in the institution and discipline teams delivered invaluable insight throughout project development and evaluation. This interactive workshop provides the opportunity to hear about the initiatives and impact on the student cohorts as they transition in to first year in Higher Education, and to discuss with colleagues ideas for change to promote student engagement and belonging – towards the Learning and Teaching strategic objective of improving the retention and the success of our students through effective, evidence-based intervention (University of Glasgow, 2015, p5)

References

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